

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

GAVEN PICCIANO,

Plaintiff,

v.

CLARK COUNTY, CLARK COUNTY
JAIL, WELLPATH, LLC, and
NAPHCARE, INC.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C20-06106-DGE

ORDER ON PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION (DKT. NO.
61)

I INTRODUCTION

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration. (Dkt. No. 61.) The Court has considered the briefing filed in support of and in opposition to the motion and the remainder of the file and hereby GRANTS the motion for the reasons stated herein.

II BACKGROUND

The Court reincorporates by reference the relevant factual and procedural background found in the underlying order. (*See* Dkt. No. 60 at 2–3.) On February 8, 2022, Defendant Wellpath, LLC ("Wellpath") moved to dismiss Plaintiff's claims against Wellpath under the

1 Rehabilitation Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, Washington Law Against Discrimination (“WLAD”),
 2 Negligence, Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress, and Outrage. (Dkt. No. 60 at 3.) On
 3 May 23, 2022, the Court granted the motion in part, dismissing Plaintiff’s WLAD claim with
 4 prejudice as to all Defendants and dismissing Plaintiff’s Rehabilitation Act claim without
 5 prejudice as to all Defendants. (Dkt. No. 60 at 13.)

6 On June 6, 2022, Plaintiff filed his present Motion, arguing that the Court erred by
 7 dismissing his Rehabilitation Act claim because: 1) the Second Amended Complaint (“SAC”)
 8 adequately stated a Rehabilitation Act claim, and 2) that the Court may not dismiss claims *sua*
 9 *sponte* without notice. (Dkt. No. 61 at 2.) On July 1, 2022, the Court ordered Defendants to
 10 respond. (Dkt. No. 62.) Both NaphCare Inc. and Wellpath responded. (Dkt. Nos. 63, 65.)

11 III DISCUSSION

12 Motions for reconsideration are governed by Local Civil Rule 7(h), which provides as
 13 follows:

14 Motions for reconsideration are disfavored. The court will ordinarily deny such
 15 motions in the absence of a showing of manifest error in the prior ruling or a
 16 showing of new facts or legal authority which could not have been brought to its
 attention earlier with reasonable diligence.

17 LCR 7(h)(1).

18 Reconsideration is an “extraordinary remedy, to be used sparingly in the interests of
 19 finality and conservation of judicial resources.” *Kona Enterprises, Inc. v. Est. of Bishop*, 229
 20 F.3d 877, 890 (9th Cir. 2000). “A motion for reconsideration should not be granted, absent
 21 highly unusual circumstances, unless the district court is presented with newly discovered
 22 evidence, committed clear error, or if there is an intervening change in the controlling law.”
 23 *Marlyn Nutraceuticals, Inc. v. Mucos Pharma GmbH & Co.*, 571 F.3d 873, 880 (9th Cir. 2009)
 24 (internal quotation and alteration omitted). Neither the Local Civil Rules nor the Federal Rules

1 of Civil Procedure, which allow for motions for reconsideration, are intended to provide litigants
2 with a second chance. A motion for reconsideration should not be used to ask a court to rethink
3 what the court had already thought through—rightly or wrongly. *Defs. of Wildlife v. Browner*,
4 909 F. Supp. 1342, 1351 (D. Ariz. 1995). “Mere disagreement with a previous order is an
5 insufficient basis for reconsideration,” and “reconsideration may not be based on evidence and
6 legal arguments that could have been presented at the time of the challenged decision.” *Hawaii*
7 *Stevedores, Inc. v. HT & T Co.*, 363 F. Supp. 2d 1253, 1269 (D. Haw. 2005). “Whether or not to
8 grant reconsideration is committed to the sound discretion of the court.” *Navajo Nation v.*
9 *Confederated Tribes & Bands of the Yakima Indian Nation*, 331 F.3d 1041, 1046 (9th Cir. 2003).

10 The Rehabilitation Act requires that:

11 No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States . . . shall,
12 solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be
13 denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or
14 activity receiving Federal financial assistance[.]

15 29 U.S.C. § 794(a).

16 The Court’s Order dismissed Plaintiff’s Rehabilitation Act claim because it construed the
17 SAC as alleging a failure to adequately treat a medical condition. (Dkt. No. 60 at 8–10.)
18 Plaintiff’s Motion argues that the Court improperly dismissed his Rehabilitation Act claim
19 because he “alleged that Wellpath failed to take the necessary steps [] to ensure that he had
20 access to food services equal to that of other inmates” and therefore he was “he was denied the
21 benefit of food as a result of his celiac disease.” (Dkt. No. 61 at 9.) Plaintiff argues that
22 Wellpath’s failure to provide him a gluten-free diet was the denial of a necessary accommodation
23 for him to enjoy the benefits of the food at the Clark County Jail. (*Id.* at 6.)

24 The Court is persuaded that it erred in construing Plaintiff’s claim as exclusively alleging
a failure to provide medical treatment. While true that the ADA and Rehabilitation Act cannot

1 be used to litigate medical malpractice claims or inadequate treatment claims, “[a] failure to
 2 provide reasonable accommodation can constitute discrimination.” *Morris v. California*, 2022
 3 WL 2901730, at *1 (9th Cir. July 22, 2022) (citing *Updike v. Multnomah Cnty.*, 870 F.3d 939,
 4 951 (9th Cir. 2017) (quoting *Vinson v. Thomas*, 288 F.3d 1145, 1154 (9th Cir. 2002))).

5 As alleged in the SAC, Defendants “intentionally and with deliberate indifference” failed
 6 “to take the necessary steps to ensure that [he] had access to a gluten-free diet” and therefore
 7 “denied [him] the benefits of a program or activity receiving federal financial assistance and
 8 discriminated against him in violation of § 504.” (Dkt. No. 43 at 17–18.) That is enough for a
 9 Rehabilitation Act claim to survive at this stage as the alleged failure to provide appropriate
 10 meals may amount to discrimination based on the failure to provide reasonable accommodations.
 11 This basis is distinct from a claim of failure to provide adequate medical treatment.


12 As the Court finds that it has erred in dismissing Plaintiff’s Rehabilitation Act claim, the
 13 Court need not address Plaintiff’s second argument.

14 IV CONCLUSION

15 Accordingly, and having considered Plaintiff’s motion, the briefing of the parties, and the
 16 remainder of the record, the Court finds and ORDERS that Plaintiff’s Motion for
 17 Reconsideration is GRANTED.

18 1. Plaintiff’s Rehabilitation Act claims against all Defendants are still viable.

19 Dated this 12th day of August 2022.

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 22 David G. Estudillo
 23 United States District Judge
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